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# **Addressing Social Needs of Temporary Foreign Workers & Provincial Nominees in Rural Manitoban Communities**

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*Presented by*

**Jill Bucklaschuk, Rural Development Institute**

**Ray Silvius, Carleton University**

# Presentation Overview

- Context of Immigration in Canada
- Immigration in Manitoba (MB)
- Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)
- Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program
- Settlement Needs and Service Provision
- Collaborative Approaches to Service Provision

# RDI Rural Immigration Initiatives

- 2005: CRRF-RDI National Rural Think Tank, *Immigration and Rural Canada: Research and Practice*
- 2005: *Manitoba Rural Immigration Case Studies* conducted in Steinbach, Winkler, Portage la Prairie, Parkland
- Currently: *Exploring Demographics & Temporary Foreign Workers in Brandon & Area*

# Immigration in Canada

- 2/3 of Canada's population growth is attributed to immigration
- 2006: Admitted 252,000 immigrants
- 2006: foreign-born proportion of total population highest in 75 years.
- Canada's proportion (19.8%) of foreign-born second only to Australia (22.2%)

# An Uneven & Urban Phenomenon

Of recent immigrants, in 2006:

- More than 4/5 settled in Ontario, BC, or Quebec
- 97.2% resided in metropolitan areas, compared to 77.5 % of the total Canadian population
- 68.9% lived in Toronto, Vancouver, or Montreal
- 2.8% of recent immigrants lived in rural areas

# Immigration: A Component of Rural Development Strategies

- Address declining populations
- Revitalize and diversify rural communities
- Community economic development strategy
- Attract higher skilled workers
- Rural lifestyle attractive to newcomers, but retention efforts required

# Immigration in Manitoba

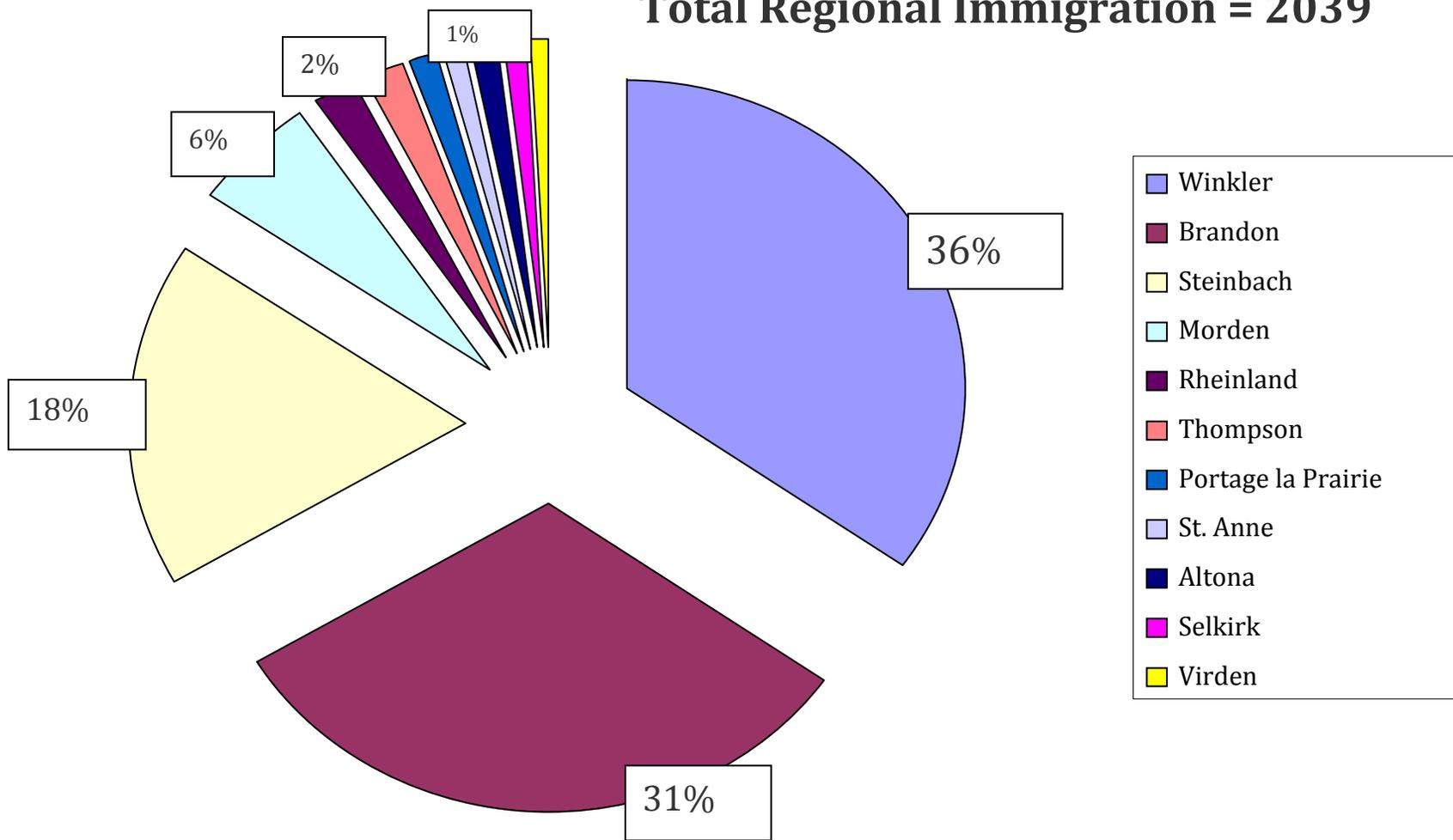
- 2007: MB received 10,955 newcomers (4.6% of total immigration to Canada)
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest percentage of foreign-born population amongst provinces
- Aggressive immigration strategy – increase annual targets to 20,000 over the next decade

# Provincial Nominee Program

- Supports demographic, social and economic development
- Skilled workers and business immigrants and their families are nominated for permanent residence status
- 2006: PNP accounted for 66.7% of MB's newcomers
- 2006: 30% of PN's chose rural destinations compared to 13% of other categories

# Top Regional Destinations, 2007

Total Regional Immigration = 2039



# Settlement Needs of Provincial Nominees

- Employment
- Language & skills development
- Credential recognition
- Housing
- Community services and supports
- Health care

# Government Roles & Responsibilities

- Encourage regionalization strategies
- Support communities
- Develop policy frameworks for immigration
- Facilitate the economic and social integration of immigrants to MB
- Provincial government is fully responsible for settlement services

# Temporary Foreign Worker Program

- Employer-driven demand for labour
- Federally-regulated pilot program for low-skilled labour
- Work permits issued for a maximum of two years
- Manitoba *actively* promotes TFWs becoming PNs

# How temporary is temporary?

## Illustrative example: Brandon, MB

- TFWs can apply to PNP after 6 months of working in the Province
  - Allows for family reunification
- 2007: 536 TFWs working at Maple Leaf Foods applied to PNP, 533 were approved
- ‘Temporary’ is not always ‘temporary’
- Industry, community, and provincial government support permanent settlement

# Settlement Needs of TFWs

- Language learning supports - EAL classes
- Available and affordable housing
- Health care
- Community support and services

# Settlement Needs of TFWs → PNs

- Family reunification
  - Needs of spouses and dependents
- Employment
- Education
- Child care
- Continued community support services

# Roles & Responsibilities of Involved Actors

- **Employer –TFWs’ initial settlement needs; not responsible for needs of PNs**
- **Community – ensure a welcoming community, offer settlement services and supports, preparedness**
- **Provincial Government – funders of EAL and settlement programs, develop policy and programs, support communities**

# Collaborative Approaches to Service Provision in Manitoba

- **RDI TFW Dialogue Group**
  - Communication and information sharing amongst stakeholders regarding numbers of arrivals (TFWs and families)
- **City of Brandon and Maple Leaf Foods**
  - Create and deliver a community orientation and settlement strategy
- **Immigration Integration Committee**
  - Formed by Winkler Chamber of Commerce after initial PN arrivals

# Bottom-Up Approach to Settlement Service Provision

- Holistic approach (easily adaptable)
- Identify needs of newcomers
- Assess what the community can provide
- Collaboration and communication amongst key stakeholders
- Remain engaged in *both* TFW and PN processes
- Each community is unique

# For More Information

**Jill Bucklaschuk,**

**Research Affiliate, Rural Development Institute**

**[bucklaschukj@brandonu.ca](mailto:bucklaschukj@brandonu.ca)**

**Ray Silvius,**

**Ph.D. Candidate, Carleton University**

**[raysilvius@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:raysilvius@connect.carleton.ca)**

**Rural Development Institute**

**[www.brandonu.ca/rdi/](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/)**